## **CLAIMS**

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PALOALTO 53253 (2K)

1. (currently amended) A <u>unitary portable biometrics-based access control</u> device
which can be directly plugged into a universal serial bus (USB) socket communicatively
coupled to a restricted resource, the device comprising:
a housing;
a microprocessor housed within the housing;
a USB plug integrated into the housing without an intervening cable and capable of
coupling the unitary portable access control device directly to the USB socket; and
a biometrics-based authentication module coupled to and controlled by the
microprocessor, at least a portion of the biometrics-based authentication module being
housed within the housing, wherein access to a restricted resource, the restricted resource
having a communication port communicatively coupled to the portable device, is granted to a
user provided that the biometrics-based authentication module authenticates the user's
identity and wherein access to the restricted resource is denied to the user otherwise.

- 1 2. (previously presented) The portable device as recited in Claim 1 wherein the biometrics-based authentication module is a fingerprint authentication module.
  - 3. (currently amended) The portable device as recited in Claim 1 which is communicatively coupled to the communication port of the restricted resource via a universal serial bus (USB) wherein the biometrics-based authentication module is an iris scan authentication module.
  - 4. (currently amended) The portable device as recited in Claim 1 wherein the biometrics-based authentication module comprises a biometrics sensor fitted on one surface of the portable device-housing.

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- 5. (currently amended) The portable device as recited in Claim 1 further
  comprising a non-volatile memory capable or of storing biometrics information usable for
  authentication.
- 6. (previously presented) The portable device as recited in Claim 1 wherein the microprocessor is configured to provide a bypass mechanism for authentication upon a determination of authentication failure by the biometrics-based authentication module.
- 7. (previously presented) The portable device as recited in Claim 1 wherein the restricted resource comprises a host computer.
  - 8. (previously presented) The portable device as recited in Claim 1 wherein the restricted resource comprises a communication network.
  - 9. (previously presented) The portable device as recited in Claim 1 wherein the restricted resource is a real estate premises that imposes access restrictions.
  - 10. (previously presented) The portable device as recited in Claim 1 wherein the restricted resource is an operable machinery, the safe operation of which requires training.
  - 11. (currently amended) A biometrics-based access control system for controlling access to a restricted resource, comprising:

a portable device which can be directly plugged into a universal serial bus (USB)

socket communicatively coupled to the restricted resource and which includes a housing; a non-volatile memory housed within the housing; a USB plug integrated into the housing without an intervening cable and capable of coupling the portable device directly to the USB socket; and a biometrics-based authentication module coupled thereto to the non-volatile memory, wherein the biometrics-based authentication module is configured to (1) capture a

9 first biometrics marker; (2) store the first biometrics marker in the non-volatile memory; (3)

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- capture a second biometrics marker; and (4) determine whether the second biometrics marker
  can be authenticated against the first biometrics marker, and wherein access to the restricted
  resource is granted upon a determination of successful authentication and wherein access to
  the restricted resource is denied otherwise.
- 1 12. (previously presented) The biometrics-based access control system as recited 2 in Claim 11 wherein the biometrics-based authentication module is a fingerprint 3 authentication module.
- 1 13. (currently amended) The biometrics-based access control system as recited in
  2 Claim 11 wherein the portable device is communicatively coupled to a communication port
  3 of the restricted resource via a universal serial bus (USB) the biometrics-based authentication
  4 module is an iris scan authentication module.
- 1 14. (currently amended) The biometrics-based access control system as recited in 2 Claim 11 wherein the biometrics-based authentication module comprises a biometrics sensor 3 which is structurally integrated with the portable device in a unitary construction, the 4 biometrics sensor being disposed on one surface of the housing of the portable device.
- 1 15. (previously presented) The biometrics-based access control system as recited 2 in Claim 11 wherein the non-volatile memory of the portable device comprises flash memory.
- 1 16. (previously presented) The biometrics-based access control system as recited 2 in Claim 11 wherein a bypass mechanism for authentication is provided upon a determination 3 of authentication failure by the biometrics-based authentication module.
- 1 17. (currently amended) A biometrics-based access control method for controlling access to a restricted resource and implemented using a portable device, the method comprising the steps of:

4	(a) directly plugging the portable device into a universal serial bus (USB) socket
5	communicatively coupled to the restricted resource, wherein the portable device includes a
6	housing; a memory; a biometrics sensor; and a USB plug integrated into the housing without
7	an intervening cable and capable of coupling the portable device directly to the USB socket;
8	(a)(b) obtaining a first biometrics marker from a user with a-the biometrics sensor
9	installed on of the portable device;
10	(b)(c) retrieving a registered biometrics marker from a-the memory of the portable
11	device, the registered biometrics marker having been stored therein during a registration
12	process;
13	(e)(d) comparing the first biometrics marker against the registered biometrics
14	marker; and
15	(d)(e) granting the user access to the restricted resource provided that a match is
16	identified in said step (e)(d).
1	18. (previously presented) The biometrics-based access control method as recited
2	in Claim 17 wherein the registered biometrics marker is a fingerprint.
1	19. (previously presented) The biometrics-based access control method as recited
2	in Claim 17 wherein the registered biometrics marker is stored in an encrypted format.
1	20. (currently amended) The biometrics-based access control method as recited in
2	Claim 17 further comprising the step of denying the user access to the restricted resource
3	provided that a match is not identified in said step (e)(d).
1	21. (currently amended) The biometrics-based access control method as recited in
2	Claim 17 further comprising the step of providing the user with a hypass authentication

procedure provided that a match is not identified in said step (e)(d).

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